

Chow Chow Breed Council Health Update 2018

Eye Testing 2018 Following the Breed Conservation meeting with the Kennel Club Health Team the Breed Council organised an KC/BVA eye testing session to be held in the Midlands in addition The Chow Chow Club of Scotland also organised a session to be run in conjunction with their Championship Show. To encourage Chow owners to participate a subsidy of £10 per Chow was provided through the Health Scheme. Both schemes were well supported by Chow owners with 23 Chows tested in the Midlands and a further 17 tested in Scotland 40 Chows in total. It is hoped that once the Silver Health Scheme is up and running that more will submit their results to help with data collection. With this in mind it has been suggested that in future the subsidy will only be paid when the forms have been submitted. We have only had 12 results sent in to date.

The reports from the testing veterinary surgeons are encouraging with just two dogs reported with entropion. It was noted that three had cataracts, whilst this is not something normally associated with the breed some attention may be needed in regard to posterior polar cataracts, whilst this is unlikely to cause any serious problem for the individual, it is known to be hereditary in some breeds.



Photo from eye testing session

Eye testing is now a recommendation for all breeding stock and should be carried out before any chow is bred from. Overall the veterinary reports suggest that overall eye health is good so keep up the good work.

Chow Chow Bronze Health Scheme We have received 22 forms so far this year, results continue to be encouraging, with just two reported with mild concerns, both related to eye irritation.

In total 136 forms have been returned and the overall picture is good, whilst it is recognised that any dog can have health issues, however the dogs being tested appear to be in good health and fit for function with excellent temperaments.

Data relating to the Kennel Club Breed Watch Points of Concern suggest that very few chows display any of the points listed, hocks were reported as stable with sound movement, no dogs were reported to have noisy or laboured breathing. Coats and body weight were normal and temperaments good. As noted two were reported to have eye irritation.

Online Health Reporting Scheme

Following the April Meeting in 2017 the online reporting health form was updated to include a section to enable to show that owners had experienced no health issues with their chows. The addition of this section certainly increased the number of owners reporting both for healthy chows and also for those chows that had experienced health issues.



We have received 293 responses since the scheme became live. Since the addition of the healthy chow section we can see that of the 219 responses 144 chows were reported to have had no health issues.

Joints and bones The most commonly reported health issue was for musculo-skeletal

problems (joints and bones). Of the 58 responses in this section 25 chows were reported to have experienced cruciate ligament injuries 10 of which occurred within the dogs first year.

Eyes Of the 293 responses 40 Chows were reported to have eye issues of which 32 were for entropion

Itchy Chows The third most reported condition was in the dermatological section where hypersensitivity (skin allergy) was reported in 18 chows of the 29 responses for this section.

These findings reflect our earlier surveys that entropion, cruciate ligament injury and skin problems are conditions that crop up in the breed from time to time. The data suggests that these conditions to be the commonly reported but the incidence remains low.

Health Conservation Moving Forwards

SILVER HEALTH SCHEME

KC/BVA Hip and Elbow Scoring, Eye Testing and the Chow Breed Council Bronze Health Scheme are now recommendations for all chows before breeding from them.

The Silver Scheme will require the applicant to provide copies of the results for all the above tests. It is proposed that the test results will be noted on the Certificate that will be issued when all the requirements have been met.

Again there will not a pass/fail approach to encourage as many people as possible to participate. The names of the dogs that are awarded a Silver Certificate will be posted on the Chow Breed Council Website, where it will be noted that inclusion on the list signifies only that they have participated in the scheme and that their dogs have had the relevant tests.

Explanations of the terminology and the nature of health issues that may appear on the certificates will be listed in the Health Section on the Breed Council Website to help new chow owners to understand the results

Ideas for Future Seminars

Elbow Conformation At this time very few chows have been Elbow Scored under the KC/BVA scheme, the results are mixed but very few actually have 0 scores with most falling in the 1 Or 2 bracket and some with a 3 score.

Gastric Dilation Volvulus Bloat continues to be an issue for Chows often fatal and very little is understood about why it occurs and what can be done to reduce the risks. In discussion with the Kennel Club it was muted that they may be able to work with the Animal Health Trust to get a better understanding of the problem.

Skin Conditions I have received several reports of Chows diagnosed with Cutaneous mucinosis is a condition associated with the Shar Pei and in that breed is considered to be hereditary. The incidence of the condition at this time in the Chow is low, however we do need to make people aware of the condition initially through the website.